

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoshio HAGIWARA  
Docket: 12052.20US01  
Title: METHOD FOR FORMING MULTI-LAYER WIRING STRUCTURE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

'Express Mail' mailing label number: EL435536152US

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By: Hassen Buie  
Name: Hassen Buie

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal sheet, in duplicate, containing Certificate under 37 CFR 1.10.
- ☒ Utility Patent Application: Spec. 21 pgs; 8 claims; Abstract 1 pgs.:
- ☒ 6 sheets of formal drawings
- ☒ Certified copy of a Japan application, Serial No. 10-241887, filed August 27, 1998, the right of priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119
- ☒ An unsigned Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
- ☒ Other: Preliminary Amendment; Communication regarding submission of priority document
- ☒ Return postcard
- ☒ **PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE IS BEING DEFERRED.**

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PATENT

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Applicant: Yoshio HAGIWARA Serial No.: unknown  
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By:

Name: Hassen Buie

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

In claim 3, line 2, replace "claim 1 or 2" with --claim 1--.

In claim 4, line 2, replace "claim 1, 2 or 3" with --claim 1--.

In claim 8, line 2, replace " claim 1 or 2" with --claim 1--.

**REMARKS**

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4 and 8.

Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Curtis B. Hamre, (Reg. No. 29,165), at 612.336.4722.


Respectfully submitted,

Yoshio HAGIWARA

By his Attorneys,

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Dated: August 24, 1999

By   
Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg No. 29,165  
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## METHOD FOR FORMING MULTI-LAYER WIRING STRUCTURE

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, and in particular to applying a so-called damascene method therein.

#### 2. DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

A conventional method for forming the multi-layer wiring or circuit board is shown in Fig. 1.

In the conventional method, first of all, an aluminum (Al) layer is formed on a substrate, as shown in Fig. 1 (a), and on this is provided a resist mask on which patterns are formed. Then, as shown in Fig. 1 (b), the aluminum (Al) layer is etched through reactive ion etching (RIE), so as to form lower layer wiring. Next, as shown in Fig. 1 (c), applying SOG (spin on glass: applying a liquid obtained by dissolving a silicon compound into an organic solvent, such as alcohol or the like) thereto (although the SOG layer is provided directly on the Al wiring in Fig. 1 (c), an insulating film may be provided between the Al wiring and the SOG layer by means of a plasma CVD method), and as shown in Fig. 1 (d), the SOG layer is flattened with an etch back. Further, as shown in Fig. 1 (e), the SOG is applied on a surface which is flat, and so-called via-holes are formed by etching the SOG layer selectively, as shown in Fig. 1 (f). Then, Al is filled into the via-holes, as shown in Fig. 1 (g). As shown in Fig. 1 (g), an Al film is formed. Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 1 (h), the Al film

is etched so as to form upper wiring, in the same manner as mentioned above, and the SOG is applied on it to fill up spaces defined among the upper wiring, thereby forming the multi-layer wiring structure.

- 5 In actual multi-layer wiring structures, many of them are formed with more than 5 layers by applying the etching technology as mentioned above.

Requirements for high integration of semiconductor devices is increasing more and more, and we are just now entering  
10 into a generation of 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$  in gate length. In this instance, it is already apparent that the characteristics of semiconductor devices can be improved if applying Cu in place of Al, which is conventionally applied, in particular in the following aspects.

Compared with Al, Cu is superior in durability or tolerance  
15 against EM (electromigration), and because of a low resistance thereof, it is possible to reduce the delay of signals due to the resistance of the wiring. Also, it is possible to apply a high current density thereto, i.e., it can increase current density allowable to three-times as high as is immediately realized,  
20 thereby enabling the minimization of the width of wiring.

However, because it is difficult to control etching rates, in particular on Cu (compared with Al), a copper damascene method receives much attention as a method for realizing the multi-layer wiring of Cu without the etching on Cu.

- 25 The explanation of the conventional copper damascene method will refer to Fig. 2.

First of all, as shown in Fig. 2 (a), an insulating film made of either  $\text{SiO}_2$  or SOG is formed on a substrate using a CVD

method for insulation between layers, and on it is provided a resist mask on which predetermined patterns are formed, so as to form wiring gutters by means of an etching method, as shown in Fig. 2 (b). Next, as shown in Fig. 2 (c), barrier metal is piled up or accumulated, and then Cu is filled up into the wiring gutters through electroplating or the like so as to form lower layer wiring, as shown in Fig. 2 (d). And after polishing the barrier metal and Cu by CMP (chemical polishing), the insulating film for maintaining insulation between layers is formed again on the wiring structure, as shown in Fig. 2 (e). In the same manner, hereinafter, by etching the insulating films for insulation between layers, selectively, through the resist mask on which the patterns are formed, via-holes and gutters for upper layer wiring are formed on the insulating films between layers (dual damascene), as shown in Fig. 2 (f), and the barrier metal is piled up on those via-holes and gutters for upper layer wiring, as shown in Fig. 2 (g). Then, as shown in Fig. 2 (h), Cu is filled up into the via-holes and gutters using electroplating or the like, thereby forming the upper layer wiring.

As is mentioned above, in the case of forming the multi-layer wiring (or multi-layer wiring structure) through the copper damascene method, increasing the aspect ratio (height/width) of via-holes comes to be a mandatory factor in minimization. However, in a case where  $\text{SiO}_2$  being formed through the CVD is used as the insulating material between the layers, the aspect ratio which can be obtained is 2 at the utmost, which is not satisfactory.

Also, for minimization, a low dielectric constant is necessary for the insulating film between layers; however the dielectric constant of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  is  $\epsilon = 4.1$ , i.e., it is relatively high.

Application of organic or inorganic SOG having low dielectric constant ( $\epsilon = 3.5$  or less than that) has been studied. However, even if the multi-layer wiring is formed using the copper damascene method, applying SOG, the dielectric constant of the SOG comes to be higher, after forming it into the multi-layer wiring than that which the SOG has inherently.

Also, in the case where organic SOG is applied as the material of the insulating film between layers, a defect can easily occur, being called by "poisoned via".

#### 10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventors of the present invention acknowledge that, in the case of organic SOG, Si-CH<sub>3</sub> bonding (CH<sub>3</sub> is one example) is cut and changes into Si-OH after forming the multi-layer wiring by using the copper damascene method, for example. While in the case of inorganic SOG, Si-H bonding is cut and changes into Si-OH, and the dielectric constant of the SOG is high due to such changes in structure of the insulating film between layers. Accordingly, the present invention is based on such acknowledgments by the inventors.

Namely, in Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. Hei 8-316228 (1996), for example, there is disclosed a technology, wherein the surface of the inorganic SOG film is densified by treating with an ashing process using O<sub>2</sub> as the main reactant onto the inorganic SOG film under a pressure being equal to or less than 40 Pa, so as to prevent the cutting of the Si-H bonding during heat processing, or processing with organic solvent (which will be taken in steps thereafter), thereby increasing tolerance or durability against moisture absorption.

Then, the present invention is accomplished upon the basis



of an assumption that, in the case where the same process is applied to exfoliation (i.e., ashing) of the resist mask obtained by the copper damascene method, the Si-CH<sub>3</sub> bonding will not be cut when the organic SOG is used, and also the Si-H bonding will not be cut when the inorganic SOG is used, thereby enabling the maintenance of the inherent low dielectric constant of SOG.

Namely, according to the present invention, a method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, comprising the following steps is provided:

etching via-holes or wiring gutters through a resist mask on an insulating film between layers of silica systems which have a dielectric constant equal to or less than 3.5;

filling up said wiring gutters or said via-holes with conductive material; and

performing an ashing process on said resist mask with oxygen gas plasma under an atmospheric pressure from 0.01 Torr to 30.0 Torr.

Further, preferably, silver, gold, aluminum, copper or the like can be listed as the conductive material mentioned above, and more preferably, copper can be listed. The pressure preferably is within a range from 0.01 Torr to 1.2 Torr. Also, as the method for forming the multi-layer wiring structure a damascene method is preferable, wherein the wiring gutters or the via-holes are filled up with the conductive material after forming barrier metal on the interior surface of the wiring gutters or the via-holes.

The insulating film between layers of silica system must have a dielectric constant being equal to or less than 3.5. An organic SOG and inorganic SOG can be listed as a coating liquid for forming such a film. As such the organic SOG, it is appropriate to have a content of carbon lying from 5 % by weight to 25 % by

atomic weight, for example, and more preferably, the content of carbon is from 8 % by weight to 20 % by atomic weight.

Here, the content of carbon is a scale for indicating a ratio of the organic group within the organic SOG, and in more detail it is theoretically calculated from reacting an amount of alkoxy silane for preparing the coating liquid for forming the organic SOG, i.e., the ratio of the content of carbon with respect to total atomic amount of all elements thereof.

When the content of carbon is less than the range mentioned above, the organic component is too small to form a thick film, thereby cracks occur easily therein. The advantage of having a low dielectric constant, which the organic SOG inherently has, is also lost. On the other hand, when the content of carbon is too much, undesirably, shortage occurs in adhesion or bonding of the organic SOG with the barrier metal layer.

For obtaining the film having the content of carbon mentioned above, it is preferable to apply a coating liquid including a chemical compound, being obtained through hydrolysis and condensation reaction of at least one kind of alkoxy silane compounds in organic solvent and in the presence of an acid catalyst. Said one kind of alkoxy silane compounds to be selected from alkoxy silane compounds expressed by a following general equation (I):



wherein, R in the general equation (I) indicates an alkyl radical having carbon number from 1 to 4 or an aryl radical, R<sup>1</sup> an alkyl radical having carbon number from 1 to 4, and n an integer from 1 to 2.

As examples of such chemical compounds expressed by the above general equation (I) are listed as below:

(a) when  $n=1$ , the compound is a monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane, such as, monomethyl-trimethoxysilane, monomethyl-triethoxysilane, monomethyl-tripropoxysilane, monoethyl-trimethoxysilane, monoethyl-triethoxysilane, monoethyl-tripropoxysilane, monopropyl-trimethoxysilane or monopropyl-triethoxysilane, or a monophenyl-trialkoxysilane, such as, monophenyl-trimethoxysilane or monophenyl-triethoxysilane.

(b) when  $n=2$ , the compound is a dialkyl-dialkoxysilane, such as, dimethyl-dimethoxysilane, dimethyl-diethoxysilane, dimethyl-dipropoxysilane, diethyl-dimethoxysilane, diethyl-diethoxysilane, diethyl-dipropoxysilane, dipropyl-dimethoxysilane, dipropyl-diethoxysilane or dipropyl-dipropoxysilane, or a diphenyl-dialkoxysilane, such as diphenyl-dimethoxysilane or diphenyl-diethoxysilane. It is necessary to use at least one kind of compound listed in (a) and (b) above.

As other components which can be co-condensated, if desired, with the compounds in (a) and (b), when  $n=0$  in the chemical components expressed by the above general equation (I), (c) tetralkoxysilane, such as, tetramethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, tetrapropoxysilane or tetrabutoxysilane can be effectively used.

Among the compounds listed in (a), (b), and (c) above, the chemical compounds being preferably used from a practical view point are tetramethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, monomethyl-trimethoxysilane, monomethyl-triethoxysilane, dimethyl-dimethoxysilane, and dimethyl-diethoxysilane.

Those alkoxysilane compounds may be used only one kind at a time thereof or by two or more kinds combined together.

In more detail, when only one kind is used, (a) is preferable. When combining two kinds, (a) and (b) are preferable, and when

combining three kinds, (a), (b) and (c), are preferable. With regard to the reaction mol ratio, in such instances, in particular when combining the two kinds, the (a) and (b), the coating liquid including hydrolysis co-condensate, can be obtained by reacting the (a) monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane from 2 mol to 6 mol, more preferably from 2 mol to 4 mol, on 1 mol of the (c) tetraalkoxysilane in organic solvent under the presence of acid catalyst, is preferable since it shows superior adhesion on a coated layer.

Also, when combining three kinds, the (a), (b) and (c), the coating liquid including hydrolysis co-condensate, being obtained by reacting the (c) tetraalkoxysilane from 0.5 mol to 4 mol, more preferably from 1.0 mol to 3.0 mol, and the (a) monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane from 0.5 mol to 4 mol, more preferably from 0.5 mol to 3.0 mol, on 1 mol of the (b) dialkyldialkoxysilane in organic solvent under the presence of acid catalyst, is preferable since it shows superior adhesion on a coated layer.

Further, when only using the (a) monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane, hydrolysis co-condensate of a ladder type can be obtained easily, and is preferable since this ladder type forms the film which has the lowest dielectric constant among the organic and inorganic SOGs.

Hydrolysate may be complete hydrolysate or partial hydrolysate. The degree of hydrolysis can be adjusted by the amount of water added. The amount of water may be adjusted appropriately depending upon the characteristics of the organic SOG film to be obtained, however, in general, it is preferable to react water from 1.0 to 10.0 times the mol ratio thereof, more preferably from 1.5 to 8.0, on 1 mol of total amount of alkoxysilane compound, which can be expressed by the above general equation. When being too much less than indicated above, the degree of hydrolysis is decreased and it is difficult to form the film

therewith, thereby being undesirable. Also, when the amount of water used is too much than indicated above, it is also undesirable, since it allows gelification to occur easily, thereby deteriorating stability for preservation thereof.

5       Also, as the acid catalyst either organic acid or inorganic acid can be used, both of which are conventionally used in the prior arts. As such the organic acids which can be listed are organic carboxylic acid, such as, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, or the like. As such the inorganic acids which can  
10      be listed are , for example, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, or the like.

In this instance, the acid catalyst or acid-water solution of mixing acid and water is added so that acid resides within the coating liquid from 1 ppm to 1,000 ppm, more preferably from 5  
15      ppm to 500 ppm in concentration thereof, thereby hydrolysis occurs.

The hydrolysis, in general, completes the reaction thereof in a time period from 5 to 100 hours. Also, under the heating condition from room temperature to 80 °C, the reaction can be  
20      completed within a short reacting time period by adding dropwise the water solution of acid catalyst including alkoxysilane composition to react thereon. The alkoxysilane composition hydrolyzed in this manner causes a condensation reaction, and as the result, it forms the films.

25       As the organic solvents which can be used are those which are conventionally used in the prior arts, including monatomic alcohol, such as, methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, propyl alcohol, or butyl alcohol, polyatomic alcohol, such as, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol or propylene glycol, derivatives of polyatomic  
30      alcohol, such as, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, ethylene glycol monopropyl ether,

ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monoethyl ether, propylene glycol monopropyl ether, propylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate or propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, and fatty acid, such as acetic acid, propionic acid, etc. Each of those organic solvents can be used alone, or in combinations of two kinds or more therefrom. As for the amount of it/them to be used, a ratio being from 10 to 30 times in the mol ratio thereof with respect to 1 mol of alkoxysilane is used.

On the other hand, inorganic SOG is a solution containing, as solvent, alkylene glycol dialkyl ether, which contains the acid hydrolysis condensate of trialkoxysilane therein, and in particular, preferably shows an increase in weight when performing thermogravimetric analysis or measurement after removing the solvent, since it has a low dielectric constant and is superior in durability or tolerance against cracking.

The inorganic SOG is obtained by adjusting the containing amount of the alcohol which is produced by reaction in reacting mixture to be equal or less than 15% by weight, after dissolving trialkoxysilane described in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei 9-137121 (1997) into alkylene glycol dialkyl ether at a concentration from 1% by weight to 5% by weight being exchanged for  $\text{SiO}_2$ , into which solution is added water from 2.5 mol to 3.0 mol per 1 mol of trialkoxysilane so as to cause hydrolysis condensation under the existence of acid catalyst.

In the above-mentioned, the reason for selecting the concentration of trialkoxysilane being exchanged for  $\text{SiO}_2$  to be from 1% by weight to 5% by weight is that, with this the insulating film between layers of the ladder structure can be obtained. This ladder structure is preferable since a dense film can be formed therewith and the dielectric constant obtained thereof is low.

As such, examples of the above mentioned trialkoxysilane, can include: trimethoxysilane, triethoxysilane, tripropoxysilane, tributoxysilane, diethoxy-monomethoxysilane, monomethoxy-dipropoxysilane, dibutoxy-monomethoxysilane, 5 ethoxy-methoxy-propoxysilane, monoethoxy-dimethoxysilane, monoethoxy-dipropoxysilane, butoxy-ethoxy-propoxysilane, dimethoxy-monopropoxysilane, diethoxy-monopropoxysilane, monobutoxy-dimethoxysilane, etc. Among those, the chemical compounds being preferable from a practical view point are 10 trimethoxysilane, triethoxysilane, tripropoxysilane, tributoxysilane, and among those being selected, in particular trimethoxysilane and triethoxysilane are more preferable.

Next, as the solvent, it is necessary to use alkylene glycol dialkyl ether for increasing the stability for preservation 15 thereof. By using this solvent, it is possible to suppress the resolving reaction of H-Si radical in trialkoxysilane, which occurs in the conventional method of using less alcohol as solvent, or to suppress the displacement reaction of the alkoxy radical by ahydroxyl radical (which is produced as an 20 intermediate) in silanol, thereby prohibiting gelification thereof.

As this alkylene glycol dialkyl ether, dialkyl ether of alkylene glycol or the like can be listed, for example, ethylene glycol dimethyl ether, ethylene glycol diethyl ether, ethylene 25 glycol dipropyl ether, ethylene glycol dibutyl ether, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol dipropyl ether, diethylene glycol dibutyl ether, propylene glycol dimethyl ether, propylene glycol diethyl ether, propylene glycol dipropyl ether, and propylene glycol dibutyl 30 ether. Among those, dialkyl ether of ethylene glycol or propylene glycol is preferable, in particular of ethylene glycol dimethyl ether or propylene glycol dimethyl ether. Each of those organic solvents can be used alone, or two kinds or more therefrom can

be combined. The ratio of it/them to be used is from 10 to 30 times the mol ratio thereof with respect to 1 mol of alkoxysilane.

Water for causing hydrolysis of trialkoxysilane is preferably used within a range from 2.5 mol to 3.0 mol with respect to 1 mol of trialkoxysilane, and more preferably from 2.8 mol to 3.0 mol, for increasing the degree of hydrolysis. When the ratio of water is too low compared with this range, though, the stability for preservation can be increased, however the degree of hydrolysis is decreased and the amount of organic radicals therein comes to be large, thereby generating gas when forming the films. On the other hand, if the ratio of water is too high, the stability for preservation is deteriorated.

Even if at least one kind selected from alkylene glycol dialkyl ether is used without using alcohol as the solvent, since alcohol corresponding to an alkoxy radical is inevitably produced in the hydrolysis of alkoxysilane, it is necessary to remove from the reaction system the alcohol which is produced. In more detail, it is necessary to remove the alcohol to the point that it is equal or less than 15% by weight within the coating liquid, more preferably until it is equal to or less than 8% by weight. If the alcohol remaining is in excess of 15% by weight, the alcohol produced reacts with H-Si radical to produce RO-Si radical, thereby decreasing the limit of cracks, as well as generating gases when forming the films, i.e., causing the troubles mentioned above.

As a means for removing the alcohol, distillation under reduced pressure is preferable, in particular, for a time period from 2 to 6 hours in a vacuum from 30 mmHg to 300 mmHg, more preferably from 50 mmHg to 200 mmHg, and in the temperature from 20 °C to 50 °C. The coating liquid obtained in this manner can be characterized by the aspects that the film forming component, after removing the solvent, shows an increase in weight when



measuring it with thermogravimetric analysis (TG), and that it does not have a peak at  $3,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the infrared light absorption spectrum thereof. Contrarily, the conventional coating liquid, such as described in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei 4-216827 (1992), shows a decrease in the weight thereof when measuring it with thermogravimetric analysis, and has a peak in the vicinity of  $3,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the infrared light absorption spectrum, thereby indicating that alkoxy radical remains therein.

Also, with a method for forming the insulating film between layers of silica system, for example, the coating liquid is applied or coated on a surface of a substrate, such as, semiconductor substrate, a glass substrate, a metal substrate, a ceramic substrate or the like, by means of, such as, a spinner method, a roll coating method, a dip and pull up method, a spray method, a screen printing method, a brush painting method, and so on, and it is dried by evaporation of the solvent so as to form the coated film therewith. Then, the insulating film is formed by baking it in a temperature from  $250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $500\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1 (a) through (i) show general steps for forming a multi-layer wiring structure;

Figs. 2 (a) through (h) show steps for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, according to the copper damascene method of the present invention;

Figs. 3 (a) and (b) show a graph of the infrared light absorption spectrum when treating with an ashing process for a predetermined time under an atmospheric pressure of 1.2 Torr using a plasma ashing apparatus of a sheet-fed down-stream type, and a graph of the infrared light absorption spectrum when treating

with said ashing process for 30 seconds under a predetermined pressure using the same plasma ashing apparatus, respectively;

Figs. 4 (a) and (b) show a graph of infrared light absorption spectrum when treating ashing process for a predetermined time under an atmospheric pressure of 1.0 Torr with using the plasma ashing apparatus of the sheet-fed down-stream type and a graph of infrared light absorption spectrum when treating ashing process for 30 seconds under a predetermined pressure with using the same plasma ashing apparatus, respectively;

Figs. 5 (a) and (b) show a graph of the infrared light absorption spectrum when treating with an ashing process for a predetermined time under an atmospheric pressure of 0.8 Torr using the plasma ashing apparatus of the sheet-fed down-stream type, and a graph of the infrared light absorption spectrum when treating with said ashing process for 30 seconds under a predetermined pressure using the same plasma ashing apparatus, respectively; and

Fig. 6 shows a graph of the infrared light absorption spectrum when treating with an ashing process for 30 seconds under a predetermined pressure using the plasma ashing apparatus of the sheet-fed down-stream type.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Hereinafter, embodiments according to the present invention will be fully explained by referring to the attached drawings.

(Embodiment No. 1)

Preparation of Coating Liquid:

246 g of tetramethoxysilane (1.62 mol) and 440 g of monomethyl-trimethoxysilane (3.24 mol) are dissolved into 332 g of polyprere glycol monopropyl ether (2.81 mol) and mixed and stirred therein. Next, after adding dropwise 277 g of pure water (15.39 mol) in which nitric acid is mixed at 24 ppm, while stirring slowly, this is further stirred for about five (5) hours, and thereafter they are left still at room temperature for five (5) days, thereby obtaining a mixture with 15% by weight in solid component thereof.

After applying the solution mentioned above as the coating liquid on a substrate, it is baked at 400 °C so as to form organic SOG film thereon. The amount of carbon contained within the organic SOG film is determined as 12.4% by atomic weight from the following equation. Also, the organic SOG film measured has a dielectric constant of 3.5 thereof.

$$2C/[2(CH_3SiO_{3/2})+SiO_2]\times 100$$

Next, wiring gutters are formed by performing the etching upon the organic SOG film using a patterned resist film as a mask thereon, and thereafter, the resist film is removed by applying the ashing process with oxygen gas plasma using a plasma ashing apparatus of a sheet-fed down-stream type, under an atmospheric pressure of 1.2 Torr. Then, barrier metal is formed in the wiring gutters, and thereafter, Cu is filled into them by means of an electroplating method to form lower layer wiring.

Fig. 3 (a) shows curves indicating infrared light absorption spectra obtained by differing the times of ashing processes, namely, 60 seconds, 45 seconds, 30 seconds, 15 seconds, and unattended, respectively, in order from the upper curve. From this graph, it is apparent that the Si-C bonding is not cut in the case when using the present invention.

On the other hand, in Fig. 3 (b), the condition is the same until when the wiring gutters are formed by performing the etching, however the ashing process time thereafter, (i.e., the time during when the ashing process is performed with use of the same plasma ashing apparatus) is 30 seconds, and the curves indicate infrared light absorption spectra obtained by differing the pressures used in the ashing process, for example, 50 Torr, 40 Torr, 35 Torr, and 30 Torr, respectively, in order from the upper curve. From this graph, it is apparent that the Si-C bonding is cut and OH bonding occurs when the pressure applied in the ashing process is increased.

(Embodiment No. 2)

#### Preparation of Coating Liquid:

304.4 g of tetramethoxysilane (2 mol), 272.4 g of monomethyl-trimethoxysilane (2 mol) and 120.2 g of dimethyl-dimethoxysilane (1 mol) are dissolved into 608.6 g of isopropyl alcohol (8.21 mol) and mixed therein. Next, after adding dropwise 288.0 g of pure water (16 mol) containing nitric acid at 40 ppm, while stirring slowly, it is further stirred for about five (5) hours, and thereafter they are left still at room temperature for five (5) days, thereby obtaining a mixture with 16% by weight in solid component thereof.

After applying the solution mentioned above as the coating liquid on the lower wiring of (the embodiment No. 1), it is baked at 400 °C so as to form organic SOG film thereon. The amount of carbon contained within the organic SOG film is 14.6% by atomic weight, derived from the following equation. Also, the organic SOG film measured has a dielectric constant of 3.0.

$$4C/[ (CH_3)_2SiO_{2/2} + 2(CH_3SiO_{3/2}) + 2SiO_2 ] \times 100$$

Next, via-holes and upper layer wiring gutters are formed by performing a dual damascene method on the organic SOG film, using a patterned resist film as a mask thereon, and thereafter, the resist film is removed by applying the ashing process with oxygen gas plasma using the plasma ashing apparatus of a sheet-fed down-stream type, under an atmospheric pressure of 1.0 Torr. Then, barrier metal is formed in the via-holes and the upper layer wiring gutters, and thereafter, Cu is filled into both by means of an electroplating method to form the upper layer wiring and its connection to the lower layer wiring.

Fig. 4 (a) shows curves indicating infrared light absorption spectra obtained by differing the times of ashing processes, namely, 60 seconds, 45 seconds, 30 seconds, 15 seconds, and unattended, respectively, in order from the upper curve. From this graph, it is apparent that the Si-C bonding is not cut in the case when using to the present invention.

On the other hand, in Fig. 4 (b), the condition is same until when the via-holes and the upper layer wiring gutters are formed by performing the etching, however the ashing process time thereafter, i.e., the time during when the ashing process is performed with use of the same plasma ashing apparatus, is 30 seconds, and the curves indicate infrared light absorption spectra obtained by differing the ashing process pressures, namely, 50 Torr, 40 Torr, 35 Torr, and 30 Torr, respectively, in order from the upper curve. From this graph, it is apparent that the Si-C bonding is cut and OH bonding occurs when the pressure applied in the ashing process is increased.

(Embodiment No. 3)

Preparation of Coating Liquid:

Hydrolysis condensate of ladder type, which is obtained by hydrolysis and condensation of monomethyl triethoxysilane in the presence of acid catalyst is dissolved into ethanol, and a mixture obtained at 10% by weight in solid concentration is applied as the coating liquid.

After applying this coating liquid on the lower wiring of (the embodiment No. 1), it is baked at 400 °C so as to form organic SOG film thereon. An amount of carbon contained in the organic SOG film formed with this coating liquid is 17.9% by atomic weight, as determined from the following equation. Also, the organic SOG film measured has a dielectric constant of 2.8 thereof.

$$C/[ (CH_3)SiO_{3/2} ] \times 100$$

Next, via-holes and upper layer wiring gutters are formed by performing a dual damascene method on the organic SOG film, using a patterned resist film as a mask thereon, and thereafter, the resist film is removed by applying the ashing process with oxygen gas plasma using a plasma ashing apparatus of a sheet-fed down-stream type, under an atmospheric pressure of 0.8 Torr. Then, barrier metal is formed in the via-holes and the upper layer wiring gutters, and thereafter, Cu is buried into both by means of the electroplating method to form the upper layer wiring and its connection to the lower layer wiring.

Fig. 5 (a) shows curves indicating infrared light absorption spectra obtained by differing the times of the ashing processes, namely, 60 seconds, 45 seconds, 30 seconds, 15 seconds, and unattended, respectively, in order from the upper curve. From this graph, it is apparent that the Si-C bonding is not cut in the case when using the present invention.

On the other hand, in Fig. 5 (b), the condition is the same

until when the via-holes and the upper layer wiring gutters are formed by performing the etching, however the ashing process time thereafter, i.e., the time during when the ashing process is performed with use of the same plasma ashing apparatus, is 20 seconds, and the curves indicate infrared light absorption spectra obtained by differing the ashing process pressures, for example, 40 Torr, 35 Torr, 30 Torr, and 0.01 Torr, respectively. From this graph, it is apparent that the Si-C bonding is cut and OH bonding occurs when the pressure applied in the ashing process is increased.

(Embodiment No. 4)

#### Preparation of Coating Liquid:

73.9 g (0.45 mol) of triethoxysilane, being 3% by weight exchanged for  $\text{SiO}_2$ , is dissolved into 799.0 g (8.87 mol) of ethylene glycol dimethyl ether and they are stirred. Next, after adding dropwise 24.2 g of pure water (1.34 mol) in which concentrated nitric acid is mixed at 5 ppm, while stirring slowly, it is further stirred for about five (5) hours, and thereafter left still at room temperature for five (5) days, thereby obtaining a solution.

The coating liquid of 8% by weight in solid concentration and of 3% by weight in ethanol concentration is prepared by distilling said solution under reduced pressure from 120 to 140 mmHg for 1 hour at 40 °C.

After being applied on substrate, the coating liquid is baked at 400 °C so as to form the inorganic SOG film. This inorganic SOG film is measured as having a dielectric constant of 3.0. On this inorganic SOG film are formed wiring gutters by etching through the patterned resist films (as the mask), and thereafter,

the resist film is removed by applying the ashing process with oxygen gas plasma using the plasma ashing apparatus of the sheet-fed down-stream type, under an atmospheric pressure of 0.5 Torr. Then, barrier metal is formed in the wiring gutters, and thereafter, Cu is filled into them by means of the electroplating method to form the lower layer wiring.

Those shown in the upper stage and the lower stage in Fig. 6 are the infrared light absorption spectra when differing the time period of the ashing process mentioned above, namely, 120 seconds and unattended (0 second). From this figure, it is apparent that the Si-H bonding is not cut in the case when using the present invention.

On the other hand, that shown in the middle stage of Fig. 6 is the infrared light absorption spectrum, being obtained, though under the same condition mentioned above until the wiring gutters are formed by the etching, when the ashing process is performed using the same plasma ashing apparatus for 120 seconds, but the pressure is changed to 35 Torr. From this figure, it is apparent that the Si-H bonding is cut and OH-bonding occurs when the pressure is increased during the ashing process.

As is fully described in the above, according to the present invention, in the method for forming a multi-layer circuit board, by etching via-holes or wiring gutters through a resist mask on an insulating film between layers of a silica system having a dielectric constant being equal to or less than 3.5, and filling up said wiring gutters or said via-holes with conductive material by using the damascene method, wherein the ashing process is performed on said resist mask with oxygen gas plasma under an atmospheric pressure from 0.01 Torr to 30.0 Torr (more preferably, from 0.01 Torr to 1.2 Torr), the bonding is hardly cut between Si and organic radical or between Si and Hydrogen radical,



constituting the insulating film between layers of silica, thereby maintaining a low in the dielectric constant thereof.

Also, in particular when organic SOG is applied, since the bonding is hardly cut between Si and organic radical, the  
5 generation of poisoned via is suppressed therein.

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**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, comprising the following steps:

etching via-holes or wiring gutters through a resist mask  
5 on an insulating film between layers of silica system having dielectric constant being equal to or less than 3.5;

filling up said wiring gutters or said via-holes with conductive material; and

performing an ashing process on said resist mask using  
10 oxygen gas plasma under an atmospheric pressure from 0.01 Torr to 30.0 Torr.

2. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, as described in the claim 1, wherein after forming said wiring gutters or said via-holes, a damascene method is used to fill up  
15 said wiring gutters or said via-holes with the conductive material.

3. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, as described in claim 1 or 2, wherein said insulating film between layers of silica system contains carbon from 5% by atomic weight  
20 to 25% by atomic weight.

4. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, as described in the claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said insulating film between layers of silica system is formed by coating and baking a coating liquid including a chemical compound, being obtained  
25 through hydrolysis and condensation reaction of at least one kind of alkoxysilane compounds in organic solvent under presence of an acid catalyst, wherein said one kind of alkoxysilane compounds is selected from alkoxysilane compounds expressed by the

following general equation (I):



wherein, R in the general equation (I) indicates an alkyl group having carbon number from 1 to 4 or an aryl group, R<sup>1</sup> indicates an alkyl group having carbon number from 1 to 4, and n indicates an integer from 1 to 2.

5 10 5. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, as described in the claim 4, wherein said coating liquid contains hydrolysis co-condensate being obtained by reacting monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane from 2 mol to 6 mols with 1 mol of tetraalkoxysilane in the organic solvent in the presence of the acid catalyst.

15 6. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, as described in the claim 4, wherein said coating liquid contains hydrolysis co-condensate being obtained by reacting tetraalkoxysilane from 0.5 mol to 4 mols and monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane from 0.5 mol to 4 mols with 1 mol of dialkyl-dialkoxysilane in the organic solvent in the presence of the acid catalyst.

20 7. A method for forming a multi-layer wiring structure, as described in claim 4, wherein said coating liquid contains hydrolysis condensate of a ladder type obtained from monoalkyl-trialkoxysilane.

25 30 8. A method for forming a multi-layer circuit board, as described in claim 1 or 2, wherein said insulating film between layers of the silica system is formed by coating with a coating liquid, and baking said coating liquid, which is obtained from a solution of a solvent of alkylene glycol-dialkyl ether containing acid hydrolysis condensation product of trialkoxysilane, and which shows an increase in weight when



ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

5 A method for suppressing the cutting of bonds between  
organic radical (for example,  $\text{CH}_3$ -radical) or H-radical and Si  
atom in SOG film during an ashing process, thereby maintaining  
a low dielectric constant, after wiring gutters are formed through  
10 etching on organic or inorganic SOG film of low dielectric  
constant using a patterned resist film(s) thereon as a mask, the  
resist film(s) is removed by treating with the ashing process by  
use of a plasma ashing apparatus of a sheet-fed down-stream type  
under an atmospheric pressure of 1.2 Torr, for example, and  
thereafter barrier metal is formed and Cu is filled into the wiring  
gutters, so as to form the wiring.

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Hassen Buie  
printed name

Hassen Buie  
Signature

FIG. 1 (a)

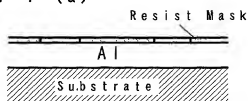


FIG. 1 (f)

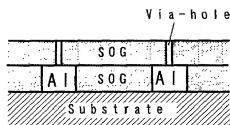


FIG. 1 (b)



FIG. 1 (g)

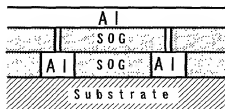


FIG. 1 (c)



FIG. 1 (h)

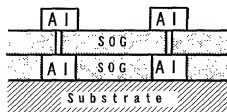


FIG. 1 (d)



FIG. 1 (i)

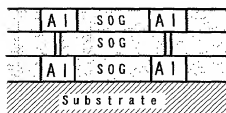


FIG. 1 (e)

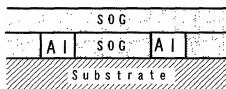


FIG. 2 (a)

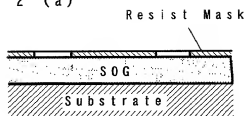


FIG. 2 (e)

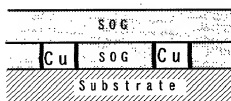


FIG. 2 (b)



FIG. 2 (f)

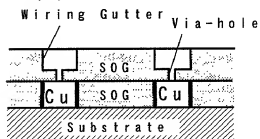


FIG. 2 (c)

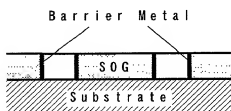


FIG. 2 (g)

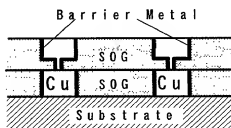


FIG. 2 (d)



FIG. 2 (h)

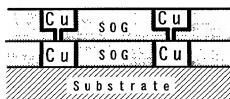


FIG. 3 (a)

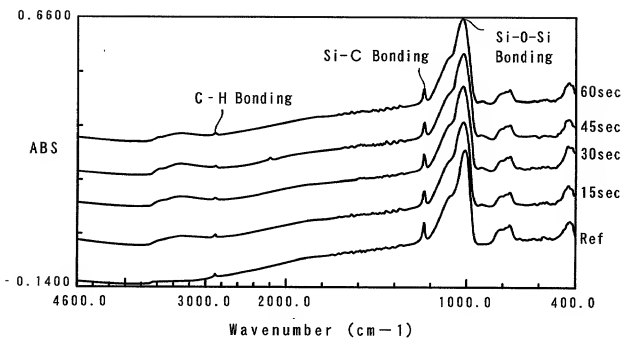


FIG. 3 (b)

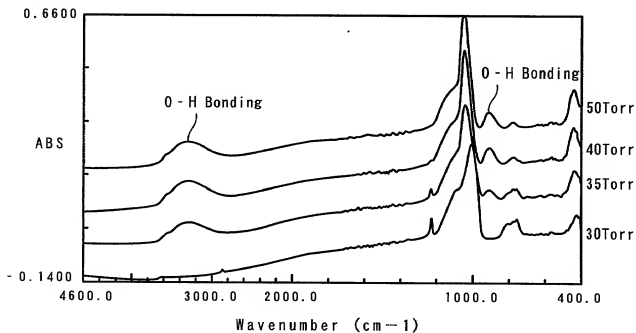




FIG. 4 (a)

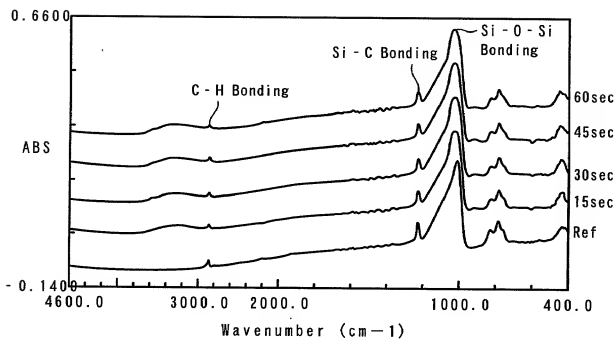


FIG. 4 (b)

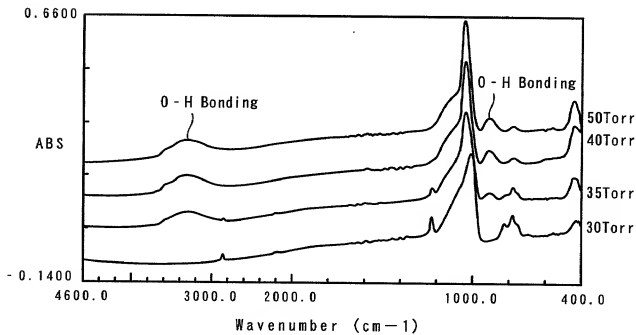


FIG. 5 (a)

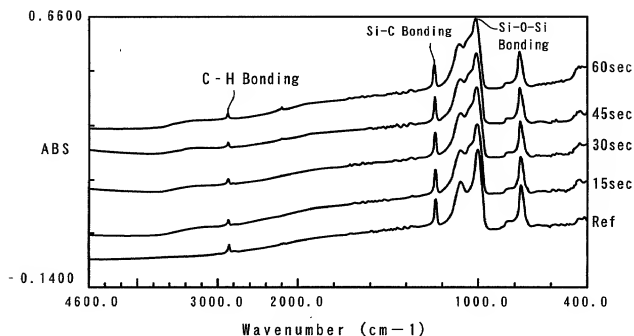


FIG. 5 (b)

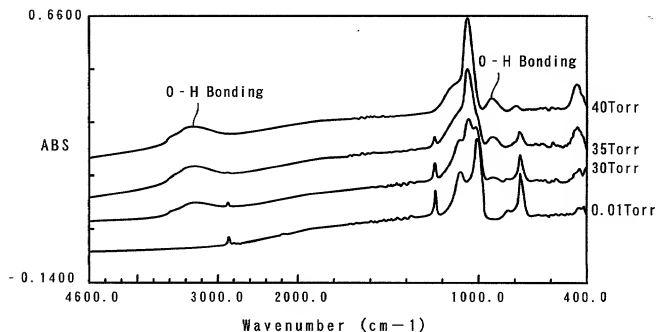
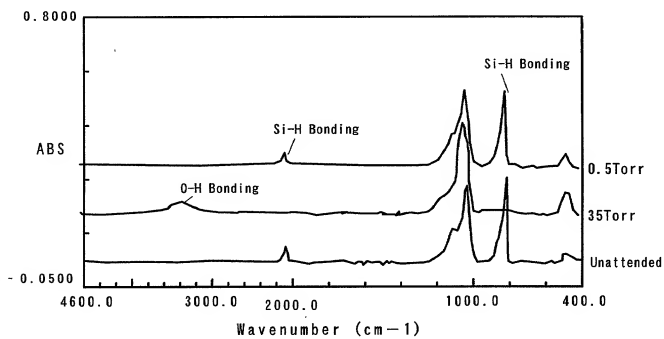


FIG. 6



MERCHANT &amp; GOULD P.C.

## United States Patent Application

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: METHOD FOR FORMING MULTI-LAYER WIRING STRUCTURE

The specification of which

- a. ☒ is attached hereto  
 b. ☐ was filed on      as application serial no.      and was amended on      (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no.      filed      and as amended on      (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (attached hereto).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

- a. ☐ no such applications have been filed.  
 b. ☒ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
Japan	10-241887	27 August 1998	
ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

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Beard, John L.	Reg. No. 27,612	McDonald, Daniel W.	Reg. No. 32,044
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Edell, Robert T.	Reg. No. 20,187	Soderberg, Richard	Reg. No. P-43,352
Epp Ryan, Sandra	Reg. No. 39,667	Storer, Shelley D.	Reg. No. P-45,135
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Golla, Charles E.	Reg. No. 26,896	Swenson, Erik G.	Reg. No. P-45,147
Gorman, Alan G.	Reg. No. 38,472	Tellekson, David K.	Reg. No. 32,314
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Johnston, Scott W.	Reg. No. 39,721	Wickham, J. Scot	Reg. No. 41,376
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Kowalchuk, Alan W.	Reg. No. 31,535		
Kowalchuk, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 36,848		

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Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

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90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4131

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name HAGIWARA	First Given Name Yoshio	Second Given Name
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1	Post Office Address	Post Office Address 18-6, Tabatashinmachi 2-chome; Kita-ku	City Tokyo	State & Zip Code/Country Japan
Signature of Inventor 201:			Date:	

**§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
  - (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;
  - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
    - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
    - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
  - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.